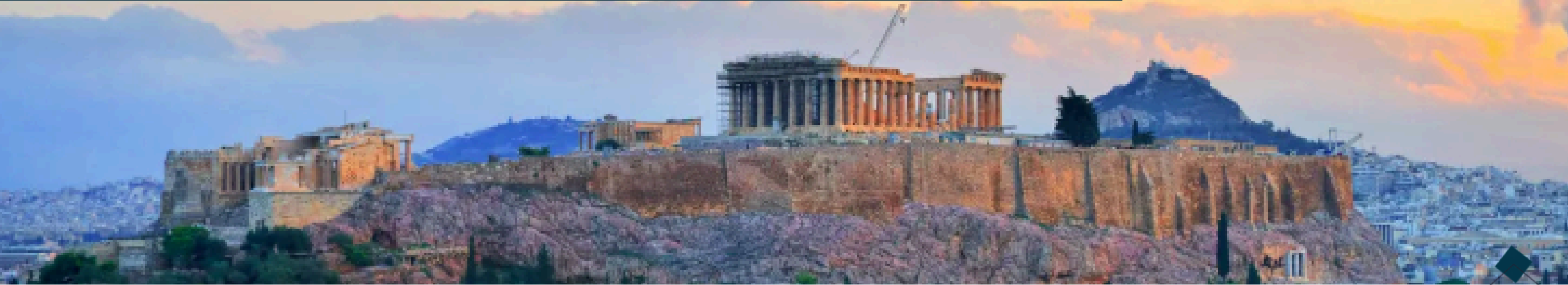


ENERGY POVERTY ADVISORY HUB 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



OVERVIEW

A strategic forum to align policy, practice, and innovation for a just, citizen-centered transition.

Join policymakers, local municipalities, and other experts in Athens for the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub's (EPAH) Annual Conference. The 2026 conference will showcase community-based, multi-sector solutions, including Athens' pioneering initiatives such as the Energy Portal and the Energy Benefit Card.

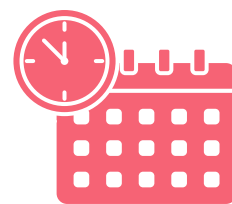
Participants will explore strategies to address structural vulnerabilities, high and volatile energy costs, and poor housing performance.

Select objectives:

- Highlight energy poverty as a cross-sector, systemic challenge requiring long-term, inclusive solutions linked to EU policy initiatives
- Identify fair, citizen-centered solutions to high energy costs, and poor building performance
- Promote integrated local action, showcase municipal solutions, and strengthen the energy poverty community via tools and shared lessons
- Build capacity using EPAH methodologies, indicators, country fiches, and the EPAH [ATLAS](#)

[Livestream Link](#)

TIME & DATE



17-18 March 2026

Starting at 9:00 AM



Athens, Greece

The National Gallery &
The Stratos Vassilikos Hotel

WELCOME SPEAKERS



Rosalinde Van der Vlies

Director, Just Transition, Consumers, Efficiency, and Innovation, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission



Kyriakos Iordanou

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Commerce & Industry, Republic of Cyprus



Nikolaos Chardalias

Governor of Attica
Greater Athens Region, Greece



Haris Doukas

Mayor,
City of Athens, Greece

Contact Us



info@energypoverty.eu



www.energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu



EU
Energy Poverty
Advisory Hub



Venue: The National Gallery – Alexandros Soutsos Museum
 50 Vasileos Konstantinou str. 116 34, Athens | +30 214 40 86 201
<https://www.nationalgallery.gr/>

9:00 – 9:30 AM **REGISTRATION** | *Foyer*

9:30 – 10:00 AM **WELCOME & OPENING SESSION** | *Onassis Auditorium*

Master of Ceremony:

- *Jeppe Mikél Jensen*, Project Manager, Energy Poverty Advisory Hub / Climate Alliance

Speakers:

- *Rosalinde Van der Vlies*, Director, Just Transition, Consumers, Efficiency, and Innovation, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission
- *Kyriakos Iordanou*, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Commerce & Industry, Republic of Cyprus
- *Nikolaos Chardalias*, Governor of Attica, Greater Athens Region, Greece
- *Haris Doukas*, Mayor, City of Athens

10:00 – 11:15 AM **HIGH-LEVEL PANEL SESSION** | *Onassis Auditorium*

Inclusive Solutions for a Just Transition: Tackling Energy Poverty Across All Levels of Governance

The panel will bring together representatives from local, national, and EU institutions across diverse areas of Europe to discuss inclusive, multi-level strategies for addressing the root causes of energy poverty. Panelists will share experiences and policies that integrate social equity, territorial cohesion, and climate justice into the just transition, highlighting how coordinated governance can deliver lasting solutions.

Moderator:

- *Rosalinde Van der Vlies*, Director, Just Transition, Consumers, Efficiency, and Innovation, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission

Speakers:

- *Despoina Paliarouta*, Secretary General for Energy & Mineral Resources, Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy
- *Jorge Hernández Villarreal*, Senior Advisor, Cabinet of the Spanish State Secretariat for Energy
- *Kostas Komninos*, General Manager, DAFNI Network of Sustainable Greek Islands
- *Dr. Corina Murafa Benga*, Rapporteur on CEP, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee

11:15 – 11:45 AM **COFFEE BREAK** | *Café Ilissos & Garden*

11:45 AM – 13:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** | *Onassis Auditorium*

How National Energy Poverty Observatories Can Support Both Local and National Governments

The panel explores how national observatories in Greece, Austria, Portugal, Romania, and the Netherlands, are driving coordinated action against energy poverty by supporting evidence-based policymaking at local and national levels. Representatives from each observatory will share their approaches to data collection, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement, highlighting how these structures help align national strategies with the needs of communities. The panel examines how observatories foster cross-sector collaboration and build capacity for targeted, inclusive intervention.

Moderator:

- *Alice Corovessi*, Managing Director, INZEB & Project Manager, Energy Poverty Nexus

Speakers:

- *Diogo Desterro*, Senior Officer, Portuguese Directorate General for Energy and Geology
- *Christos Tourkolias*, Energy Policy Expert, Greek Observatory, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions
- *Caroline Nwafor*, Director, Austrian Observatory, Energy Poverty Office
- *George Jigla*, President, Romanian Observatory, Center for the Study of Democracy Association
- *René Schellekens*, Energy Poverty Expert, Dutch Observatory, Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland

DAY 1 | 17 March 2026



Venue: The National Gallery – Alexandros Soutsos Museum
50 Vasileos Konstantinou str. 116 34, Athens | +30 214 40 86 201
<https://www.nationalgallery.gr/>

AFTERNOON

13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH BREAK** | *Café Ilissos & Garden*

14:30 – 16:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** | *Onassis Auditorium*

Unlocking Financial Opportunities to Tackle Energy Poverty in Europe

This panel will explore how financing schemes and programmes can accelerate the fight against energy poverty across Europe and scale up investments in energy efficiency, decarbonisation and renewable energy access for households. It will bring together representatives from financial institutions, public authorities, social enterprises, and community-centered energy initiatives to discuss practical pathways for mobilizing funding towards energy-poor households and vulnerable communities.

Moderator:

- *Veronique Marx*, Team Leader on Just Transition, Directorate General for Energy

Speakers:

- *Jérémie Benhamou*, Head of Gas Market & Energy Poverty Unit, French Ministry for Economy & Energy
- *Luca Bertalot*, Secretary General, European Mortgage Federation
- *Paula Bezerra*, Project Officer, Joint Research Centre, Directorate C – Energy, Climate, Transport
- *Nuno Cunha Lopes*, Senior Advisor, Vice Mayor’s Office, Cascais City Council, Portugal
- *Joris Piette*, COO & Project Manager, Onesto (RE-LEAF, LEG UP Projects)

16:00 – 16:30 **COFFEE BREAK** | *Café Ilissos & Garden*

16:30 – 17:30 **INTERACTIVE Q&A** | *Onassis Auditorium*

EPAH Remarks & Look Ahead

Meet with EPAH colleagues in a relaxed setting to learn about upcoming priorities and ask questions of our staff. Let us know what you would like to see next and how we can help you. The Q&A will also highlight inspirational cases, new tools, ongoing technical assistance opportunities, and ways to stay involved. It offers participants a forward-looking perspective, linking shared knowledge to concrete next steps.

17:30 **END OF DAY**

19:00 – 22:00 **NETWORKING DINNER** | *Thea Terrace Bar*

Address:

Central Athens Hotel
21 Apollonos Street, 10557 Athens

Thea Terrace Bar is located on the hotel’s rooftop

<https://www.centralhotel.gr/thea-terrace-bar>

For confirmed participants only

DAY 2 | 18 March 2026



Venue: Stratos Vassilikos Hotel

114 Michalakopoulou, Athens | +30 210 77 06 611

<https://www.airotel.gr/en/>

MORNING

9:00 – 9:30 AM **REGISTRATION** | *Foyer*

9:30 – 11:00 AM **PARALLEL SESSION – PANEL DISCUSSION** | **OLYMPIA ROOM**

Mapping and Measuring Energy Poverty Locally: From Data, Models, and Composite Indicators to Stakeholder-driven Solutions

This session examines how European energy poverty can be identified, tracked, and addressed using data analysis, simulations, and household-level insights, presenting the Parma study and lessons from the Social Climate Fund and Social Climate Plans on stakeholder engagement and policy. Participants will engage in hands-on exploration of administrative datasets and EU tools (e.g., LOCATEE, ComActivate), comparing national monitoring approaches from the Netherlands, Austria, and Greece to show how data indicators and infrastructure shape policy relevance, while enabling peer-learning and practical knowledge exchange for evidence-based and inclusive interventions.

Moderator: *Dr. João Pedro Gouveia*, Principal Researcher, FCT-NOVA, University of Lisbon & EPAH Partner

Speakers:

- *Dr. Sofia-Natalia Boemi*, Senior Expert, Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy
- *Emanuele Cocchi*, Researcher, Ricerca sul Sistema Energetico
- *Dimitris Papantonis*, Research Associate, University of Piraeus Research Center
- *Alexandra Wegscheider-Pichler*, SDG-Energy Poverty Project Manager, Statistics Austria

9:30 – 11:00 AM **PARALLEL SESSION – WORKSHOP** | **AEGEAN & LEMNOS ROOM**

How Integrated Energy Renovations Can Reach Vulnerable Households: Practical Approaches to Financing, Engagement, and Demand Reduction

This session explores comprehensive approaches to building renovation, combining technical, financial, and capacity-building strategies. It showcases how passive retrofit measures – supported by evidence and simulation models – improve energy performance, year-round indoor comfort, and affordability alongside financing models that reduce or eliminate upfront costs. Experiences from JUST PEPP, RENOVERTY, and CEESEN-BENDER projects will illustrate how strengthening municipal and residential capacities enables effective renovation processes.

Introductory Keynote Speech: European Commission, Directorate General for Energy

Moderator: *Dimitra Drakaki*, Project and Communications Manager (JUST PEPP), Climate Alliance

Speakers:

- *Marta Schulte Fishedick*, Energy Specialist, Austrian Energy Community Secretariat
- *Vojtech Klézl*, Associate Professor, Inland Norway University
- *Branislava Marsenic Maksimovic*, ECRB Natural Gas and Customer Expert, Energy Community Secretariat
- *Ana Belén Gómez Minguela*, Urban Researcher / Architect, CARTIF Technology Centre

9:30 – 11:00 AM **PARALLEL SESSION – WORKSHOP** | **MYRINA ROOM**

Leave No One Behind: What Role Can Energy Communities Play in Tackling Energy Poverty?

This workshop explores how energy communities can act as practical tools for reducing energy poverty. It demonstrates how community-driven models can ensure that clean and affordable energy reaches vulnerable households. Participants will learn how to identify barriers that prevent marginalised groups from joining energy communities, apply vulnerability assessment criteria, and design inclusive participation pathways. The session highlights tangible solutions beyond electricity production, such as renovation, advice and demand-response schemes. Local governments gain clear methods and approaches that they can directly adapt to develop inclusive, community-based energy poverty alleviation strategies.

Introductory Keynote Speech: European Commission, Directorate General for Energy

Moderator: *Marina Varvesi*, CEO, AISFOR / Energy Poverty Advisory Hub Partner

Speakers:

- *Chris Vrettos*, Senior Policy Advisor, REScoop.eu
- *Dr. Lidija Živčič*, Senior Expert, FOCUS
- *Sandy Fameliari*, Project Manager, Electra Energy Cooperative
- *Irene González-Pijuan*, Policy Officer, Ingeniería Sense Fronteras
- Technical Assistance Overview – Citizen Energy Advisory Hub Representative

DAY 2 | 18 March 2026



Venue: Stratos Vassilikos Hotel

114 Michalakopoulou, Athens | +30 210 77 06 611

<https://www.airotel.gr/en/>

MORNING

11:00 – 11:30 AM **COFFEE BREAK** | *OUTSIDE CONFERENCE ROOMS*

11:30 AM – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSION – PANEL DISCUSSION** | **OLYMPIA ROOM**

Digitalisation of Energy Poverty Services: Limits and Opportunities

This session combines project-based insights and comparative European experiences to explore how digitalisation can address energy poverty taking into account limits and opportunities. It presents initiatives such as the My Energy App piloted in Barcelona, the supramunicipal Diputació of Barcelona's plans for a fully online provincial service, alongside experiences from E-lit Adults and ProLight. Through presentations, a multi-stakeholder round table, and open discussion, we examine how digital tools, energy literacy, can overcome structural barriers, empower vulnerable households, and be adapted and scaled across diverse European contexts. In reflecting on helpful options, the limitations of digital tools are also discussed.

Introductory Keynote Speech: European Commission, Directorate General for Energy

Moderator: *Marta García París*, Co-Director, Ecoserveis / Energy Poverty Advisory Hub Partner

Speakers:

- *Stefano Fava*, Head of Grant Unit, Planet Smart City
- *Athanasios Lampropoulos*, Project Manager, Cluster of Bioeconomy & Environment of Western Macedonia
- *Mònica Plana Izquierdo*, Director of Social Inclusion, Welfare and Development Association
- *Cristina Ramos*, Co-Director, Ecoserveis
- *Cristina Chiva Alonso*, Social Policy Technician, Diputació de Barcelona
- *Martin Berghold*, Project Manager, Social Energy Community Developer & Informal Learning Consultant, STRATECO

11:30 AM – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSION – WORKSHOP** | **AEGEAN & LEMNOS ROOM**

From Policy to Practice: Co-creating Solutions for Energy-poor Households

This interactive workshop brings together local authorities, one-stop shops, energy agencies, energy communities, and citizens to strengthen cooperation in supporting energy-poor households through their involvement in energy communities. Co-organised by EU Peers, the Covenant of Mayors, CLR, and the LIFE BIRTUOSS project, it combines top-down and bottom-up perspectives, drawing on expert input and hands-on experience from one-stop shops. Through three interconnected interactive sessions—setting the scene, identifying shared challenges and solutions, and developing mini action plans. Participants will exchange practical insights, explore successful practices, and leave with concrete actions to implement at local level, supported by expert background inputs and inspiring case studies.

Moderator: *Mariangela Luceri*, Project Manager, FEDARENE

Speakers / Facilitators:

- *Valentina Alberti*, Senior Project Officer, FEDARENE – EU Covenant of Mayors
- *Lesly Mercedes Barriga Delgado*, Project Officer, FEDARENE – BIRTUOSS Project
- *Stefan Pallantz*, Civil Engineer & Board President, Hellenic Passive House Institute
- *Angela Gaitani*, Head of Projects, Athens Energy Poverty Alleviation Office
- *Avgi Gonou*, Sustainability Expert, Athens Energy Poverty Alleviation Office
- *Andoni Hidalgo Simón*, International Affairs Consultant, BIRTUOSS Project

11:30 AM – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSION – WORKSHOP** | **MYRINA ROOM**

Tackling Energy Vulnerability among Women and Youth: Co-creating Solutions for Overlooked Groups

Across the EU, the degree to which households led by single women and youth (age 18-35) are affected by energy vulnerability are insufficiently captured in existing data. As a result, both groups remain overlooked in policy and practice. To equip participants with new approaches and tools to identify, engage with and respond to the needs of these groups, workshop activities will be co-designed by Women in Solidarity for Energy (WISE) and the European Youth Energy Network (EYEN). The workshop will draw on WISE's practical experience in working with women and on data collected through EYEN's ground-breaking quantitative survey on energy poverty among youth. Participants will feel better prepared to build consumer profiles of women and youth, advance energy rights, and launch energy solidarity movements to co-create practical action and policy change.

Moderator: *Dr. Kristina Eisfeld*, Technical Expert, Energy Poverty Advisory Hub

Speakers:

- *Maria Bellou*, Policy Officer, European Youth Energy Network
- *Emma de Haan*, Policy Officer, European Youth Energy Network
- *Dr. Mariëlle Feenstra*, Scientific Director, 75inQ
- *Federica Ragazzo*, RETE ASSIST

DAY 2 | 18 March 2026



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13:00 – 14:15 **LUNCH BREAK** | RIVA RESTAURANT & MEZZANINE FOYER

14:15 – 15:00 **CLOSING REMARKS** | OLYMPIA ROOM

Speaker:

- *Alejandro Ulzurrun*, Head of Consumers, Just Transition, Local Initiatives Unit, Directorate General for Energy

15:00 – 15:30 **TRAVEL TO SERAFEIO COMMUNITY COMPLEX**

15:30 – 17:00 **SITE VISIT** | *Energy Poverty Alleviation Office*

Serafeio Community Complex

19 Echelidon Street & 144 Pireos Street, 11854 Athens
<https://gaef.developathens.gr/en/contact-en/>

Thank you for joining us in Athens!

Ways to Engage with Us



Power the Conversation

Promote the conference and share your experiences on your social media channels using the following hashtags!

- *#EPAH_Conf26, #EnergyPoverty*





Stay in Touch

The dialogue doesn't end here – subscribe to our **newsletter** to receive quarterly updates on all things energy poverty!



Contact Us

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 www.energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu



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